

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

64-1371

SECRET

February 20, 1964

NSC REVIEW  
COMPLETED,  
06/26/2003

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: South Vietnam

The President met today with the Secretaries of State and Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Under Secretary Ball, Director McCone, and the members of Mr. William Sullivan's committee on policy and operations in South Vietnam.

After an intelligence briefing on the current situation and a full discussion of the work of the committee, the President directed the following actions:

1. Any requests for assistance or other Washington action from Ambassador Lodge should be given prompt and sympathetic response. Such staff work as may be required to back up such requests in Washington should be given the highest priority, so that decisions can be reached quickly.

2. Contingency planning for pressures against North Vietnam should be speeded up. Particular attention should be given to shaping such pressures so as to produce the maximum credible deterrent effect on Hanoi.

3. For the time being, American dependents in Vietnam should be encouraged to accept voluntary repatriation. Early next month, the Secretary of Defense will consult with Ambassador Lodge on whether dependents should be evacuated and will make appropriate recommendations to the President and the Secretary of State upon his return.

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4. The Department of State will explore in a positive manner the possibilities opened up by the recent proposals of Prince Sihanouk for a conference in Phnom Penh on the problem of Cambodian neutrality.

*M. V. Forrestal*  
Michael V. Forrestal

cc: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
The Director of Central Intelligence  
The Administrator, Agency for International Development  
Mr. William Sullivan

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64-1371

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM

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EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM No. 126DATE 25 February 1961TO:

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